

DRIVEN BY FLAMES INTO THE STORM.

Tenants in a Burning Block in Yonkers Fled Without Clothing to the Street.

An Early Morning Fire Demolished a Row of Fourteen Buildings and Seventeen Stores.

OVERHUNG THE NEPPERHAW RIVER.

Firemen Had a Narrow Escape from Death in Its Waters—Total Damage Over \$100,000—May Have Been Incendiary.

A complete block of buildings, with a frontage of over 200 feet on North Broadway, Yonkers, was wiped out by a conflagration early yesterday morning. Fourteen frame buildings, containing seventeen stores and housing families in excess of that number, were totally destroyed. The structures were forty years old and highly inflammable.

The row of two-story double-fronted stores backed into the Nepperhew River, being supported by piles driven into its bank, and in many places the rear buildings overhung the little stream. With a strong breeze blowing from the northwest the tunnel thus formed soon became a seething mass of flames, attacking the very foundation of the block, so that it was quickly realized the whole block was doomed.

It is not known whether the fire originated in the sub-bellar of Thomas McCaughlin's saloon, which is No. 35 and the extreme north end of the block, or in the adjoining candy store, No. 33, occupied by Gale Brothers. At ten minutes before 4 o'clock yesterday morning Patrolman James McGowan discovered smoke and flames issuing from the basements of both of these buildings. After hastily awakening the McCaughlins he rushed to Getty square, a block distant, and sent out a general fire alarm. With Patrolman Crough he then returned and assisted in rescuing the inhabitants of the block.

CRAWLED ALONG A CORNICE. Meantime Mrs. McCaughlin had awakened Mrs. Margaret Logue, who lives over the candy store, and owns the two houses first attacked. She and her little twelve-year-old son, Albie, found themselves cut off from escape by the stairway, and in their night clothes they had to make a general fire alarm. With Patrolman Crough he then returned and assisted in rescuing the inhabitants of the block.

The family of Mrs. Ann South, who occupy No. 31, the third house attacked, and as daughter, Mary South, who lives over the candy store, and owns the two houses first attacked. She and her little twelve-year-old son, Albie, found themselves cut off from escape by the stairway, and in their night clothes they had to make a general fire alarm. With Patrolman Crough he then returned and assisted in rescuing the inhabitants of the block.

The fire swept at the back had sucked the flames southward, and within a few minutes every one of the shanty structures was more or less ablaze. The tenants, numbering over half a hundred, fled into the street, without a thought of seeking clothes or covering. The clamor of the firebells had aroused the neighbors, who provided the late tenants of the burning houses with wrappings. They formed a motley crowd, and with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, sought to save some of the personal effects and the various stocks of their respective stores. Goods of all kinds were hauled out into the roadway and piled in fantastic disorder.

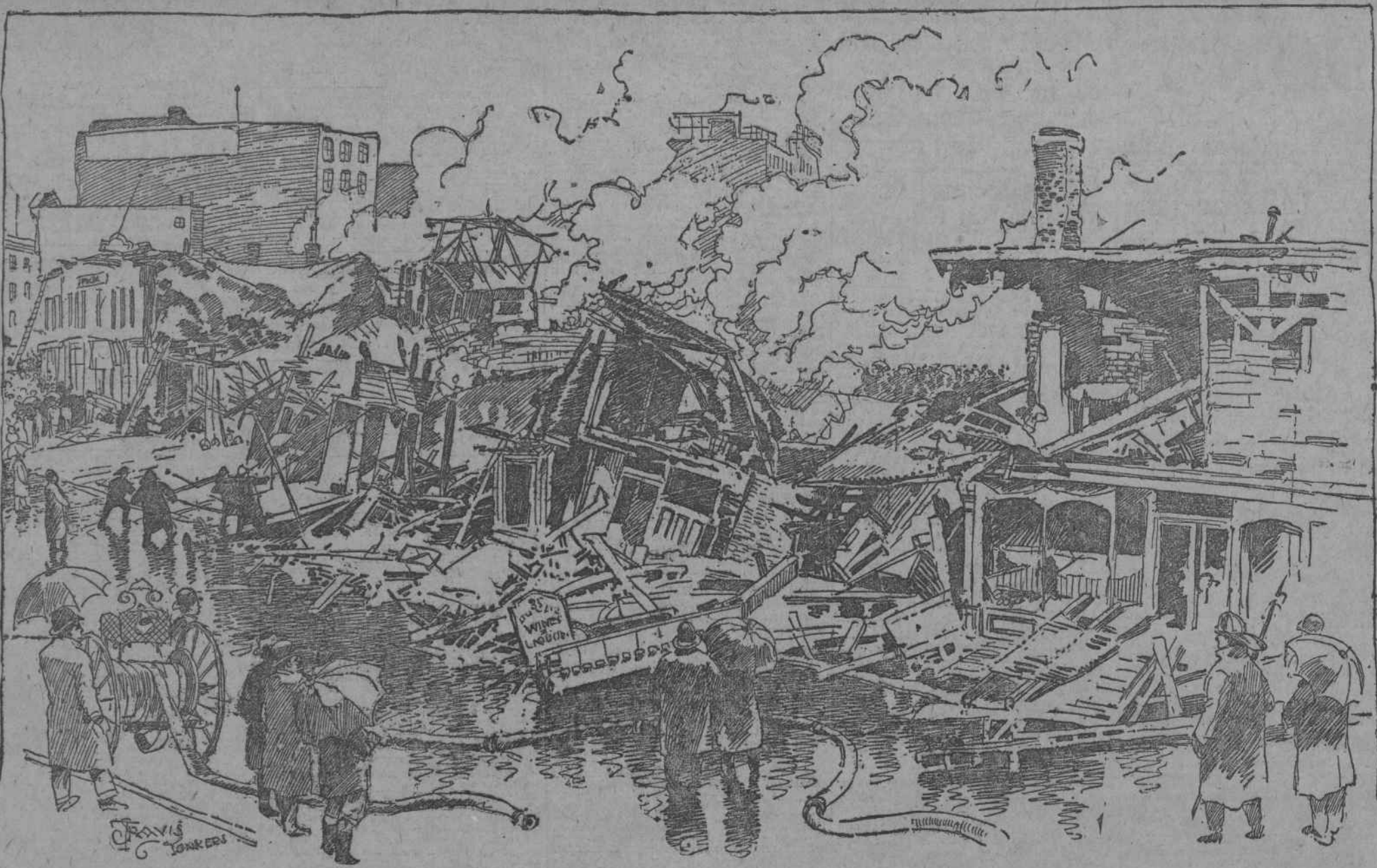
THE CONFLAGRATION SPREADS. By half past four No. 35, J. McCaughlin's saloon; No. 33, Gusselo Brothers' candy store; No. 31, William South's saloon; No. 29, occupied by the Messes Flood, milliners; and Sorgho Brothers, fruiterers; No. 27, Frost's bakery, and J. Millio's flower store; No. 25, Charles Bernstein's furniture warehouse; and No. 23, the saloon of J. F. Norris, were all one great mass of roaring flame, and in spite of the efforts of the entire local fire brigade, it was evident that the conflagration could not be restricted to this half of the block. Water was abundant, and the Honston hose, No. 6, with the Pallade Four, was working grandly from the rear on Miller street, while the Lowerre hose did efficient service right in the fore front of the fire.

In spite of the driving sleet and snow and the volumes of water poured upon them, the devouring flames consumed in rapid succession the drug store of Eugene Spruck, at No. 21; Henry Gusselo's clothing store, No. 19; the double store at No. 17, occupied by Gideon A. Peck, furnisher; and Miss Burns, milliner; J. W. Hannigan's shoe store, at No. 15; Tim's hardware store, No. 13, and the Krug music establishment, at No. 11, only stopping short at the brick saloon of Thomas F. Corbals, where much damage was done by smoke and water.

GOVERNMENT INTO THE RIVER. Some little suffering among the hastily piled goods was done, and a sixteen-year-old youth named Joseph Van Steenburg, of No. 190 Ashburton avenue, was caught by Special Officer Garnjost stealing neckties, gloves and suspenders, the property of Gideon H. Peck. He was held in \$100 bail by Judge Donohue, yesterday afternoon.

Several firemen had a narrow escape from death during the progress of the fire, when the row of No. 31, which extended over the Nepperhew, toppled over and fell into the stream with a terrific crash. They fortunately had just sufficient warning to run for their lives.

Fireman Abraham Laragh, of No. 7 Suydam place, sustained a fracture of the right arm at half-past 10 o'clock by falling through a roof. He was carried to his home and attended to by Dr. Warren. Fireman Sullivan, of the Columbia Hook and Ladder Company, had his hand so badly lacerated that four stitches had to be put in it, and a member of Washington Hose Company No. 2 was injured in the hip by a falling sign. Although from the first it was clear that the first must make a clean sweep of the old buildings, much credit was due to the efforts of the various companies who worked hard and well.



SCENE OF THE CONFLAGRATION THAT DESTROYED FOURTEEN HOUSES IN YONKERS.

The fire was carried through a funnel-like structure in the rear of the houses, so that it enveloped 200 lineal feet of buildings almost as soon as it started. The row was forty years old and faced North Broadway in front, while it overhung the Nepperhew River in the rear. A portion of a burning building fell into the river, nearly carrying with it several firemen who had been upon it a moment before.

under the leadership of Fire Chief Charles Stahl.

MAY HAVE BEEN INCENDIARY.

The amount of the damage done to the stocks of the various sufferers is estimated at \$40,000, one-half of which was covered by insurance. The owners of the property were Mrs. Logue, Richard McGraw, James McCann, B. E. Stillwell, the Wheeler estate and Bryan L. Hughes, of New York.

At 4 o'clock yesterday the central portion of the vast ruins was still smoldering and two hoses were being played upon it. The scene was picturesque in the extreme, and thousands of persons stood surveying the trail of devastation, in spite of the rain.

THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE. The cause of the fire was spread early yesterday morning. It was of incendiary origin, and the work of two suspicious persons who had been in the vicinity half an hour before, but no tangible proof against these unknown men has as yet been found. The total loss will probably reach over \$100,000.

VICTIM OF VIOLIN BUNCO.

Latest Swindle More Deceptive Than Gold Brick or Film-Flam.

Antonio Cella, who keeps a fruit store at No. 755 Lexington avenue, was made the butt of the glibness of his customers yesterday, for two dapper young men had victimized him with a bunco game much more alluring than anything which has yet come to light in the gold brick or film-flam line.

A well-dressed man had asked permission to leave his valuable violin in Cella's store while he made several calls. Cella consented. Cella was called out of the store, and when he returned he found another well-dressed stranger examining the violin with the air of a connoisseur. The stranger offered the Italian \$50 for the instrument. Cella said he was not the owner. The stranger said he would give Cella \$5 if he could persuade the owner to sell the violin at the price named. He said he was cashier of the Plaza Bank and left a deposit of \$2. Soon the first stranger strolled in. Cella offered him \$20 for the violin and finally secured it for \$30.

As a result of the transaction Antonio Cella still has a \$4 violin and the \$2 which was left as a deposit.

REAR TENEMENTS ARE DEATH TRAPS.

Robberies Which Occupy Breathing Spaces Condemned by the Reformers.

Plumbers Advocate Legislation and Superintendent Constable Fails Their Aims.

THOUSANDS OF VIOLATIONS OF LAW.

The Building Department Has Found Many Defective Houses and Seeks to Prevent the Erection of More.

Within the next few days, if the present programme of the tenement house reformers is carried out, bills will be introduced in Albany which, if they become laws, will cause many radical changes in the building laws, so far as they apply to this city and Brooklyn. The first of these bills will be introduced in both the Senate and Assembly either to-day or to-morrow. It comes from the master plumbers of this city and has the official indorsement of Superintendent Constable, of the Building Department.

Most of the other reforms contemplated are sweeping in their nature. Among other things it is suggested to tear down all rear tenements.

Superintendent Constable has not advocated such a law as this, because, he says, it is not his business to do so. He is willing and anxious, however, to join hands with any one or any organization desirous of having the building laws, particularly those relating to tenements, amended. The proposed tearing down of

the rear tenements is, however, in line with the startling facts brought out before the Steinart investigating committee of last year, and which have been kept steadily in mind by the tenement house reformers, headed by Richard Watson Childer, Mrs. Edward Lauterbach and others, ever since.

The great loss of life by fire during the past few months, both here and in Brooklyn, has served to hasten the efforts of the reformers, to the end that the death traps must go. The fact that the spaces in the rear of tenements, which should be devoted to light and air, are occupied in many cases by other houses, approached by narrow court yards, formed in the minds of the reformers the greatest danger. It was pointed out that in the event of fire not only would the firemen be placed at a great disadvantage in fighting the blaze but the inmates of the rear buildings would have great difficulty in making their escape.

To prevent a bill that would mean the tearing down of such death traps has been a problem hard to solve. The question of compensation to the owners has been the chief point to overcome, but it is believed that all the points have been fully covered. Lawyers, it is said, are now engaged drafting the bills.

In the meantime Superintendent Constable is worrying over the condition of thousands of unsafe structures in the city and the possibility of disaster. "Only that I do not want to put myself on record as an alarmist," he said yesterday, "I could point out hundreds of buildings upon which violations of the laws have been committed. Every day in the week scores of builders and owners have been down here asking to have notices removed."

"The great trouble has been that the building laws were never enforced, and no department of the city, in my estimation, was ever so corrupt as this. Buildings of all kinds were permitted to go up in direct violation of the law. Of course a good deal of this rottenness has been stopped, but it stands to reason that much of it still remains. The very fact that our men are now in uniform is a deterrent to corruption. Everybody knows them, so that even if they had the desire to they cannot work in the dark."

"A bill now in the Assembly I have persistently fought. Should it pass, scarcely an inch of breathing space would be found in any of the new buildings hereafter to be erected."

Julius M. Mayer, who was counsel to the Steinart Committee, and who is interested in tenement house reform, is the author of the bill which the plumbers of the city want to become a law. It makes radical changes in the present law, and from a health standpoint is, in the opinion of experts, all that could be desired. After submitting it to Superintendent Constable, the latter referred it to the counsel for his department. Then he made a careful study of its provisions and approved of it. He has written to the chairman of the committee in Senate and Assembly to which the bill will be committed to that effect.

This is not the first time that Superintendent Constable has made the charge that there are hundreds of death traps in the city. For that reason it is surprising that he has not so far given out any definite facts or figures for publication. What is the reason?

Alleged Fraud Stops a Trial.

Charles Abraham's suit for \$5,000 for the death of Henry, his eight-year-old son, who was killed by a Dry Dock, East Broadway & Battery Railroad car on November 1, 1895, was suddenly terminated yesterday on the ground that the plaintiff was accused of having attempted to procure false testimony. Lawyer William A. Purinton told Justice Gieseler that, as the charge had been made against his client, he would like to have the trial suspended and proposed that a juror be withdrawn as the easiest way to accomplish that end. His Honor and the counsel for the other side consented and the trial was declared off.

Governor Griggs Appoints Judges. Trenton, N. J., April 7.—Governor Griggs to-day appointed James S. Erwin District Court Judge at Jersey City, to succeed Rodolph Seymour, deceased, and Alvin as Law Judge of Ocean County, to succeed J. Holmes Birdsell, deceased.

MARSHALL WEDS TO-DAY.

The East Side Alderman to Lead Miss Charlotte Anna Schuetz to the Hymeneal Altar.

The marriage of Miss Charlotte Anna Schuetz to Alderman Frederick Louis Marshall will take place this afternoon at the residence of the bride's aunt, Mrs. John Schreiner, Sr., No. 417 Sixth street. The Rev. Jacob Schlegel, pastor of the Manhattan Dutch Reformed Church, at Avenue B and Fifth street, will perform the ceremony. Miss Della Kandler will be maid of honor and Aloysius Ehret the best man. Only the relatives and a few family friends will witness the nuptials.

In the evening there will be a wedding reception and feast at Beethoven Maennerchor Hall, Nos. 210 and 214 Fifth street. Over four hundred guests are expected to be present. Mayor Strong and the members of the Board of Aldermen have promised to attend the reception. Among the other prominent guests will be ex-Police Justice Patterson, Subway Commissioner Hamilton, Job E. Hedges, ex-Senator Eldman, William Rothman, Register Schomer, ex-Commissioner William P. Mitchell, Ex-Commissioner Julius Harburger and Rudolph Rubens. Many political organizations will be represented among the guests.

Miss Schuetz is a beautiful blonde, twenty years of age. She is a native of this city. Her mother died a few years ago. Her father is Frank Schuetz, a well-known east side resident. Miss Schuetz is a graduate of Public School No. 36 on Ninth street and of the Convent of St. Dominick. She is an accomplished pianist and composer of music.

Alderman Marshall was born in this city thirty years ago. He is a dentist. In 1894 he was elected alderman, defeating Joseph Martin, the Tammany candidate. His term does not expire until Dec. 31, 1897.

AGED WIFE'S TALE OF WOE.

Mrs. Schuecker Says Her Husband Lived at the Waldorf While She Had Barely Enough to Eat.

Louise P. Schuecker has asked Justice Stover, in the Supreme Court, for a separation from William Schuecker on the grounds of cruelty and improper support. She is sixty-two years of age and the defendant is eighty-five. Mrs. Schuecker swore her husband gave her scarcely enough for subsistence, while he lived luxuriously at the Waldorf and other big hotels. Then, too, he turned her son Frederick out of the house. Whenever her husband was not sleeping, she said, he would sit in her room and keep her awake by smoking cigars. Schuecker's defence is a general denial. The case will go on to-day.

SNOW AND SLUSH WERE OVER ALL.

New York City People Experienced a Bleak and Disagreeable Day.

The Surrounding Country Covered with a White Blanket Which Will Soon Disappear.

WARM WEATHER NOW IN THE WEST.

It Will Be Plesanter Here To-day, but the Melting Snow Will Cause a Heavy Fog—Temperature Will Rise.

A thin white sheeting of snow fell yesterday. It soon developed into a thick, slushy blanket of slush on Broadway, Fifth avenue and the Bowery. Snow fell from 4 a. m. until nightfall—a wet, soggy snow. Those who were fortunate enough to possess goloshes wore them and chuckled. Those who hadn't any and had the price of new ones hurried to the nearest shoe store and purchased the rubber protectors. And those who had neither money nor overshoes called down maledictions upon their thin-soled boots and suffered the discomfort of wet feet. It was a disagreeable day.

The snow was entirely a local matter. A slight depression of the coast caused it, and it covered a very limited area, extending over New York State as far north as Albany and over northern Pennsylvania. All of the surrounding districts had fair weather.

Farmer Dunning's weather forecast for to-day is generally fair, warmer weather. All the West was warmer than New York, even in Dakota and Montana. The temperature remained below freezing point all day long, but after to-day it will grow steadily warmer.

Spring has really come, if you can believe it shivering in your new light overcoat. The snow will all disappear to-day, creating fog along the coast, and especially over New York Bay.

The temperature in the Middle Atlantic States fell from 6 to 10 degrees, while in the Central States it became that much warmer. Yesterday the temperature in this city was from 29 to 31 degrees. The humidity was up to 100.

MRS. HUNTER NOW A MENTAL WRECK.

In Her Clouded Mind She Thinks Human Food the Proper Diet for the Brain.

The Best Way to Cook Children, She Declares, Is to Make a Curry of Them.

EATS A SPONGE TO CLEAR HER HEAD.

She is Pretty and Devoted to Her Husband and Child, but He Fears She May Harm Little Irene, Who Is in Bellevue with Her.

John Hunter's wife is named Irene, and so is their baby, who is only nineteen months old. It is a bright infant, with soft brown eyes like its mother's and a sunny disposition. The Hunters live at No. 57 Vandam street. John is a laborer, whose work keeps him from home all day, but the wife was happy with little Irene. That is what the neighbors said, but they did not know all.

There were certain periods when Hunter's face looked worried when he left home. He noticed that his wife was beginning to show signs of mental disorder. These attacks usually lasted about a week, and then she was quite rational and kept her home a model of neatness. He observed, too, that when she was affected she grew indifferent to the baby, and often times he was compelled to feed little Irene himself.

Mrs. Hunter lapsed into mental disorder on Friday last. When the baby cried for its bottle she filled it with milk and claret, and the child was made ill. She appeared lucid after that, but on Monday had another attack.

ATE A SPONGE.

She had just resolved a pound of butter from the grocer, and the baby, catching sight of it, stretched out its hands and cried for it. She gave the baby the butter, and soon little Irene was smeared with the substance from head to foot. Then she gave it a half dozen eggs to play with. When Hunter returned home in the evening he found the child in a pretty mess.

The young wife had in the meantime cut up a large sponge and eaten it. She told her husband so, and easily swallowed the few remaining pieces as she talked to him. She said she did so because the sponge would absorb the blood from the brain and leave her clear-headed. Just as Hunter was about to go to work yesterday she declared that she would be forced to cut up the baby and eat it. "All brainy and brilliant people eat human beings," said she. "I have read how pigmies eat babies, and that's what makes them so smart."

Hunter became alarmed and placed the baby with a neighbor living on the same floor and sent word to Agent Agnew, of the Gerry Society. Then he went around to the Macdonald Street Police Station House and made a report of the case. Policeman John McNeely went to the house at 11 o'clock. Agnew was already there.

CURRY OF BABIES.

Mrs. Hunter was induced to enter the patrol wagon under the impression that she was about to visit a doctor to see whether the sponge had affected her. Baby Hunter was taken along. They were driven to Jefferson Market Court. Mrs. Hunter was perfectly composed and showed no signs of nervousness. She is a pretty woman, with a pleasant voice, and even smiled as she spoke to Magistrate Crane.

"I was on Fifth avenue on Sunday," she said. "I saw society women—plenty of them. They were healthy looking and had rosy complexions. They were pleasant to look upon—all beauty. I looked at them and knew they must eat babies. The best way is to make them into a curry. My grandmother was a bright woman. I know she ate them."

"Yes," said the Magistrate, "but I'm afraid that sponge might harm you." "No, indeed," she replied, smiling, "that is all right. It agrees with me." "Well, you had better go and see the doctor. Would you?"

She nodded a cheerful assent, and was led out and placed in an ambulance and sent to Bellevue Hospital. The baby was sent there, too.

THE NEW LIBRARY SITE.

Aldermen Approve the Proposed Gift of Bryant Park Reserve.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday the Committee on County Affairs reported in favor of designating Bryant Park, at Fifth avenue and Forty-second street, as the site for the new public library.

The Legislative Committee reported against the bill now awaiting the Mayor's action, prohibiting the laying out of any railroad through Perry and Charles streets. The Mayor will give a public hearing upon the two bills this afternoon. Alderman Hall explained that the Board was opposed to the bills because they took away from the Aldermen powers that properly belong to them.



Alderman Marshall and His Bride-Elect.

Miss Charlotte Anna Schuetz will be married this evening to Alderman Frederick Louis Marshall at the home of Mrs. Schreiner, the bride's aunt, No. 417 Sixth street. Miss Schuetz is twenty years old and is a graduate of the New York schools.



PLOUGHING SNOW YESTERDAY IN CENTRAL PARK.